

THE MORNING SUN.

"IF IT'S RIGHT WE'RE FOR IT"

Issued Daily Except Monday, at Tallahassee, Florida.

Application made for entry as Second Class Mail Matter at the postoffice in Tallahassee, Fla., April 20, 1909.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE, Editor

EDITORIAL.

This news paper belongs entirely to the people of Florida. The expenses of its publication are met from a fund made up by the people of Florida.

This fund was turned over to me for this purpose—because in the fullness of their charity, the contributors confided in my humble capacity and limited experience to use it well, and in the integrity of my purpose to use it only for good, in strict conformity with the impulse that prompted them to raise it.

When asked to edit it, I said that I would be glad to do it, IF I WERE LEFT ENTIRELY FREE. I reminded them that the motto of The Sun was—"If it's right, we are for it," and that a paper sailing under this flag, carried NOTHING BUT TRUTH AND GOOD INTENT for ballast.

This accounts for the Morning Sun.

I ask all good men to help me.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE.

ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

In times past and gone, it did not seem to matter much.

But in later and in better times—on the principle that times ARE better when the public conscience is quickened—

The railroad pass is regarded as the most insidious form of corruption practiced by favor-seeking corporations on the public morals.

It is insidious because it is a crafty, cunning, designing, intriguing, sly, crooked, subtle, treacherous, foxy, and diplomatic way of bestowing favors on public servants without tying the return rubber string to them, but with the EXPECTANCY attachment there all the same.

It is as full of guile as the Eden serpent which showed the woman the way to the apple tree.

It is as loaded with deceit and armed enemies to the public good as was the gift-horse that the Greeks used for the taking of Troy.

This railroad pass comes to the public servant in the form and guise of a tribute to his importance, and as a recognition by big men that another has been added to the select list of the great.

Public officers who get those little engraved pasteboards can even apply the salve—no obligation—to the abrasion made on their consciousness by their arrival through the mail; for public officers being of necessity men of intelligence, know that passes cost the railroads nothing.

So, when a public servant gets a railroad pass, he takes out his pencil, if he is a careful man, and figures out the cost to the railroads of transporting his person. He first puts down the fact that rail-

roads must run their trains whether he rides or not. Then he sets down the fact that there are always plenty of empty seats. Then he puts down the number of pounds of coal necessary to furnish power to pull the train. This figure he divides by the number of pounds an average train weighs. Into this figure he reckons his own weight—and he finds so small a figure as the cost of transporting HIM, that he cannot set it down.

He then concludes that he is under no obligation at all to the railroad sending him the pass.

From this conclusion he finds it entirely consistent with his duty to the public to use the pass.

This is why I have ventured to call the railroad pass an INSIDIOUS form of public corruption, and to use the other adjectives to assist in its proper placing in relation to the public morals.

Legislators who reflect the public mind, and record, more or less effectively, the public will, have put laws on the statute books of this State prohibiting transportation company officers or agents, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, from issuing passes to salaried State officers or to members of the Legislature.

With its insidious nature stamped on the public mind, legislators have also passed a law against the ACCEPTANCE OF FREE PASSES by any salaried State officer, or member of the Legislature, with a fine and imprisonment penalty attached for violation.

It is a proper exercise of the Legislative power to investigate the pass question.

By the adoption of the Richbourg resolution yesterday, the House acted in line with its duty, and in accord with the public mind and conscience.

It will redound greatly to the honor of the State if the committee appointed under this resolution to investigate the pass reports made by the railroads to the Railroad Commission finds nothing to report.

It will clean up the unsanitary places on the public morals, if the committee does find something to report—

For this making public of the names, if any can be found, of public servants who have had passes—

Will KEEP OTHERS FROM OFFENDING in the future.

For these two reasons, I pronounce the Richbourg resolution one of the best ever passed by the House—

And its adoption by a rousing, unanimous vote places the House of Representatives of 1909 on record as a patriotic body, devoted to the betterment of the public service.

To Improve the Primary Law.

Sentiment in favor of the improvement of the primary law is pronounced in this legislature. There are a good many bills pending directed to the improvement of the ballot. Other bills are in preparation. One of the best bills introduced is that of Mr. Register, of Hamilton County, providing that it shall be a misdemeanor punishable by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than six months, for any person or corporation in this state to pay the poll tax of any other person, or to furnish the money to any person for the purpose of paying any other person's poll tax.

Seasonable Poetry For Florida.

BILLY, HE'S IN TROUBLE.

I've got a letter, parson, from my son away out west,
An' my ol' heart's as heavy as an anvil in my breast,
To think the boy who's futur' I had once so proudly planned
Should wander from the path o' right and come to such an end!

I told him when he left us, only three short years ago,
He'd find himself a plowin' in a mighty crooked row—
He'd miss his father's counsels and his mother's prayers too;
But he said the farm was hateful, an' he guessed he'd have to go.

I know thar's big temptation for a youngster in the west,
But I believed our Billy had the courage to resist;
An' when he left I warned him of the everwaitin' snares
That lie hidden like old sarpints in life's pathway every-where.

Our Billy he promised to be keeful an' allowed
He'd build a reputation that 'ud make us mighty proud;
But it seems as how my counsel sort o' faded from his mind,
An' now the boy's in trouble of the very wurstest kind!
His letters come so seldom that I somehow sort o' knowed
That Billy was a trampin' on a mighty rocky road;
But I never once imagined he would bow my head in shame
An' in the dust would waller his ol' daddy's honored name.

He writes from out in Denver, an' the letter's mighty short;
I just can't tell his mother; it'd crush her poor ol' heart!
An' so, parson, I reckoned, you might break the news to her
Bill's in the legislatur', but he dosen't say what fur.

Marion Crawford.

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BUT SERVED HARD

That Velvety ICE CREAM

At The

Tallahassee Drug Co.

Soft, Cooling Beverages
Conscientiously Dispensed.

Jacob's Candies

"Made Last Night"

A Real Classy Line of Cigars
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P. W. WILSON

DEALER IN

Men's Furnishings

I ask your inspection of my stock of Men's Two Piece Suits, Extra Coats and Trousers for Summer wear, Men's Underwear, Men's Shirts, Cravats, Collars and Cuffs, Men's Low-Quarter Shoes in all the New Leathers and Correct Shapes, Full Line of Men's Hats, made by High-Tone Hat Builders. I am agent for Edwin Clapp, Corsett and Snow's make of Men's Shoes.

P. W. WILSON